

## FOREWORD

*Keywords of English Grammar* is a comprehensive dictionary of grammar, a resource which will engage the attention of university students and English teachers, examiners, syllabus designers and material writers. It is a guide to the grammar and usage of English for the advanced learners who are aware of the advantage of having a knowledge of grammar, of the capacity of analysing the meaning of language and of the ability of expressing thoughts clearly. It offers a descriptive approach to English grammar, based on the principles of systemic-functional grammar, cognitive linguistics and discourse analysis.

*Keywords of English Grammar* assumes some knowledge and practical ability of handling the language and seeks to help the user further the knowledge of English grammar through exploration and analysis, explicate the relation between form, meaning and use in context and shape an integrated vision of English and grammar. It attempts to solve the problem of the heterogeneity of grammatical terminology by largely avoiding theoretical and technical explanations and establishing correspondences between the traditional terminology and the jargons of various more recent theoretical approaches.

It describes the main patterns and function words of English and establishes connections between lexis, structures and functions. Lexis and grammar are seen as closely related, which makes this dictionary of grammar a halfway house between a grammar which does not ignore the meanings of words and patterns, and a dictionary which gives grammatical information.

When using a grammar book, it may be difficult to find the information needed. The arrangement of this dictionary of grammar supports the user by several systems of access. The meaning of the most important grammatical terms can be found in separate entries. To enable a facile search, the entries are organised in alphabetical order according to headwords. There are four kinds of entries:

- entries on words such as: *a/an, be, if, inside, should, when*, etc., and entries about parts of words such as *-re* or *-wise*;
- entries on grammatical terms, such as: “adjunct”, “determiner”, “subjunctive”, “voice”, etc.;
- entries on functions such as: “apologising”, “politeness”, “thanking”, etc.
- entries on aspects of the language used in speaking or writing, such as: “formal and informal language”, “names”, “punctuation”, “spelling”, etc.

The grammatical terms, the functions and the entries on language use have their headwords in uppercase, the words and parts of words have their headwords in lower case.

Most entries are organised along the dimensions of form, structure and uses. The long entries are divided into sections marked by subtitles and solid and white bullet points. Square brackets in the text enclose explanations. Comparisons of British and American English are made where the grammatical point in question is being discussed, and are signalled as *Br. E.* or *Am. E.*

Most entries have final cross-references which lead to alternatives or to entries which contain more information about the behaviour or the meaning of the respective word or pattern.

The language samples that exemplify the grammatical descriptions are instances of good usage, illustrative of present-day English. They have been taken from corpora of contemporary English via the search engines *sentenestack* and *omnilexica*. They are usually given with no editing at all, and, therefore, not only sound realistic but are realistic and have the features of natural examples. Many widely used non-standard forms are also included. The language samples are sometimes accompanied by notes on styles.

The pronunciation of some words, given between slant lines, is taken from *Cambridge English Dictionary* (online).

The entries are followed by a LIST OF IRREGULAR VERBS and an INDEX OF TERMS AND LEXICAL ITEMS WHICH ARE NOT HEADWORDS. The latter consists of a list of terms or words that are explained in other entries and a list of the entries where these terms or words can be found.

the authors

Dana Anca Cehan  
Sabina Nadina Cehan

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The language samples have been provided by the linguistic search engines *sentencestack* and *omnilexica*.

The pronunciation transcriptions have been taken from *Cambridge English Dictionary* (online).